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STUDENT INFIRMARY
MARY CORNELIA BRADLEY MEMORIAL
STATE OF WISCONSIN GENERAL
WISCONSIN ORTHOPEDIC FOR CHILDREN
CANCER RESEARCH

December 26, 1963

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics
Stanford University
School of Medicine
300 Pasteur Drive
Palo Alto, California

*I have in mind
some fluorescent
assay*

Dear Josh:

For some few months now we have been working on the *Bacillus Globigii* organism which you were kind enough to send here as our trial organism for developing a new test for phenylketonuria screening procedures. We have worked hard on this and have gotten the spores to grow properly and have developed some improved media but interestingly enough we can neither take advantage of the pigment formation nor of the phenylalanine requiring mutant that it is when we are using it in the manner similar to that of the Guthrie technique. The growth zones around the little spot of blood on the filter paper is not sharp enough at the low levels of 2, 4, 6 and 8 mgm percent of phenylalanine.

I had the bright idea of adding some stain to the media and this has improved the zone border quite well, but unhappily it does not still improve the assay a great deal.. Now that the Ames Company has provided Pheniplates in commercial form the Guthrie test seems to be working much better.

I am sharing this observation with you in the hope that you will understand that I would rather go on to more interesting aspects of research than developing an improvement on the Guthrie assay.

Thanks for your help and if you have any valuable suggestions I would appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

Harry A. Waisman

Harry A. Waisman, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor of Pediatrics

HAW:mab

P.S. I hope the information provided by Mr. Mannering's office of the Statistical Bureau of the Public Welfare Department of Wisconsin is turning out something which is favorable to you.

EV